

## USAID DCHA ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS REPORT (ESR) PREP 2016

**Awardee:** Catholic Relief Services  
**DCHA Office:** Food for Peace  
**Program Title:** AMASHIGA  
**Award Number:** AID-FFP-A-15-00001  
**Country/Region:** Burundi  
**Life of Grant:** June 2014 - June 2019  
**LOP Funding:** \$49,961,709  
**IEE Link:** [http://gemini.info.usaid.gov/egat/envcomp/document.php?doc\\_id=44561](http://gemini.info.usaid.gov/egat/envcomp/document.php?doc_id=44561)

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:</b>	
<b>Categorical Exclusion: X</b>	<b>Negative Determination w/ Conditions: X</b>
<b>Positive Determination:</b>	<b>Deferral: X</b>
<b>Bureau Environmental Threshold Decision (ETD): Approval w/ Conditions</b>	

### **USAID Bureau Environmental Officer Approval:**

This Environmental Threshold Decision (ETD) is to inform **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** that the **Burundi ESR** has been approved with Conditions by the DCHA Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO), on **June 14, 2016**. CRS has undergone all necessary Mission and Washington clearances and meets the minimum 22 CFR 216 requirements, with the following 4 conditions and recommendation for implementation.

The DCHA BEO would like to thank CRS for the update about the resolution of deferral<sup>1</sup> and the Fumigation PERSUAP<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> “As a result of the insecurity problems detailed in the FY16 PREP narrative, the implementation of the 5 Recommendations has not yet been completed. CRS is working on implementing all of them and expects to complete them by the end of Q2 in FY16.” (ESR, p.4)

<sup>2</sup> “The Commodities Fumigation PERSUAP was submitted to FFP Washington for approval on 15 March 2016.” (ESR, p. 4)

## **Summary of BEO Conditions (5):**

**Condition 1: CRS must submit and receive DCHA BEO approval for an IEE Amendment before starting implementation of activities that are currently being Deferred (WASH, off-farm livelihoods, DRR, kitchen garden irrigation, food fortification).**

**Condition 2: PERSUAP related activities cannot commence until the respective PERSUAPs (Fumigation and Agriculture) have been approved.**

**Condition 3: CRS must ensure that the trees planted, specifically those in the road construction activities, do not introduce invasive species into the area.**

**Condition 4: Follow the updated guidance on annual environmental reporting through the ESR, as described in the FY16 FFP RFA IEE.**

**Recommendation 1: CRS should consider planning options for climate screening and sensitivity during implementation in accordance with upcoming requirements of the US Presidential Executive Order 13677.**

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### **Issue 1: Commencement of deferred activities.**

**Discussion:** The DCHA BEO would like to remind CRS that deferred activities (WASH, off-farm livelihoods, DRR, kitchen garden irrigation, food fortification) listed in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)<sup>3</sup> cannot commence until an Initial Environmental Examination-Amendment (IEE-A) has been approved.

Some of the Deferred activities require a thorough environmental review. For example, the activity regarding hygiene behaviors, potable water, and sanitation infrastructure should include mitigation measures to ensure water quality and prevent contamination. These measures likely will include a Water Quality Assurance Plan (WQAP). A simple USAID example of a WQAP can be found [here](#).

**Condition 1: CRS must submit and receive DCHA BEO approval for an IEE Amendment before starting implementation of activities that are currently being Deferred (WASH, off-farm livelihoods, DRR, kitchen garden irrigation, food fortification).**

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<sup>3</sup> The IEE stated that five activities are being Deferred (p. iii).

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**Issue 2: Commencement of activities before the approval of the PERSUAPs.**

**Discussion:** The DCHA BEO would like to thank CRS for the Fumigation PERSUAP update and the information provided in the ESR<sup>4</sup>. On page 5, there is a question that reads, “Fumigation taking place before the PERSUAP is approved?” The DCHA BEO wishes to remind CRS that no fumigation activities can take place without the fumigation PERSUAP being approved.

Similarly with the agriculture related activities under Output 2<sup>5</sup>, these activities cannot commence until the activities has been approved the Agriculture PERSUAP has been approved.

**Condition 2: PERSUAP related activities cannot commence until the respective PERSUAPs (Fumigation and Agriculture) have been approved.**

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**Issue 3: Planting of invasive tree species.**

**Discussion:** In this ESR, CRS discussed planting of agroforestry species for the production of animal fodder and anti-erosion purposes contribute to the sustainable production of biomass. The DCHA BEO commends CRS for creating a sustainable production of biomass. However, the DCHA BEO is concerned that although well intentioned, planting additional, invasive plant species can cause negative consequences and introduce invasive species that will reproduce in a rapid or uncontrollable manner into an area. Controlling damages from invasive species can be extremely costly and sometimes nearly irreversible. See the Global Invasives Database for currently identified invasive species present in Burundi: <http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/>.

**Condition 3: CRS must ensure that the trees planted, specifically those in the road construction activities, do not introduce invasive species into the area.**

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<sup>4</sup> “The Commodities Fumigation PERSUAP was submitted to FFP Washington for approval on 15 March 2016.” (ESR, p. 4)

<sup>5</sup> These activities include: “Training on Integrated Pest Management (IMP) will be incorporated into the agriculture training plan to safely address insect problems and cut down on the need for chemical pesticides. Farm groups and agriculture input suppliers will receive trainings in the responsible use of chemical and organic fertilizers. Input suppliers, especially, will receive training focused on making correct, small farmer focused recommendations on the use of chemical fertilizers.” (p. 5)

#### **Issue 4: Project not up and running, thus no ESR information to report**

**Discussion:** The DCHA BEO recognizes the short timeframe from when the IEE received final approval in August, 2015, to the end of the FY15 year and appreciates the note in the ESR to this end<sup>6</sup>. Please refer to updated information on annual environmental reporting as described in the [FY16 RFA IEE](#). The Annex 3 in the new RFA IEE provides the newest ESR template.

**Condition 4: Follow the updated guidance on annual environmental reporting through the ESR, as described in the FY16 FFP RFA IEE.**

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#### **Issue 5: Awareness raising on the Climate Change Executive Order 13677.**

**Discussion:** CRS should incorporate the US Presidential Executive Order on Climate-Resilient International Development. The memorandum states that climate-resilience considerations must be incorporated into international development work. CRS should be aware of this Executive Order from previous DCHA BEO ETDs but no comments about its incorporation into the project were included in this ESR. The complete Executive Order is available at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-09-26/pdf/2014-23228.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-09-26/pdf/2014-23228.pdf).

**Recommendation 1: CRS should consider planning options for climate screening and sensitivity during implementation in accordance with upcoming requirements of the US Presidential Executive Order 13677.**

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<sup>6</sup> “Given that implementation has just started a few months ago, and all components of the program are not as yet up and running, there is nothing to report in this section at this time. A thorough analysis of the situation will be made at the end of FY16, and any recommendations that come from that process will be noted in the next ESR.” (ESR, p. 7)

# Environmental Status Report

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**Title of Program:** AMASHIGA

**Awardee:** Catholic Relief Services - USCCB

**Host Country or Region:** Burundi / Africa

**Award Number:** AID-FFP-A-15-00001

**Life of Activity:** Begin: 09/25/2014  
End: 09/25/2019

**Fiscal Year of Submission:** FY16

*Note: the following information is for the fiscal year 2016.*

<b>Funding Begin:</b> 09/25/2014	<b>LOA Amount:</b> \$48,629,200
<b>Funding End:</b> 09/25/2019	<b>Sub-Activity Amount:</b> N/A

<b>Resource Levels:</b> \$8,399,486	<b>Food Aid Commodity:</b> 3,230 MT		
<b>Monetization Request:</b> \$0	<b>Section 202e Funds:</b> \$6,412,894	<b>ITSH Funds:</b> \$1,986,592	<b>FtF Funds:</b> \$0

<b>ESR Prepared by:</b> Duncan Campbell	<b>Date:</b> 20 March 2016
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<b>Date of Previous ESR:</b> N/A	<b>Date of Most Recent IEE:</b> August 14, 2015
<b>Contact:</b> Name: Jonathan Schofield Phone Number: (443) 955-7190 or 310-1480 Email: <a href="mailto:jonathan.schofield@crs.org">jonathan.schofield@crs.org</a>	

# Environmental Status Report

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## A. Status of the environmental documentation

- ☒ No revisions or Modifications of the Initial Environmental Estimate (IEE) are needed
- ☐ An amended IEE is needed

## B. Status of Fulfilling Conditions in the Initial Environmental Estimate, including Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

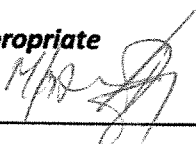
- ☒ All mitigation measures were successful at reducing and mitigating negative environmental impact as specified in the original IEE. An Environmental Status Report (ESR) describing compliance measures taken is attached.
- ☐ Improved mitigation measures were adopted to better reduce and mitigate environmental impacts. An ESR describing these improved compliance measures taken is attached.

## FOOD FOR PEACE APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS REPORT:

### *Food for Peace Mission or Regional Office, as appropriate*

Food for peace Officer:

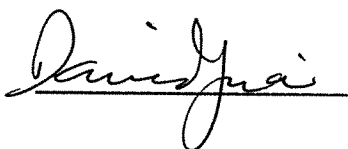
Audace MPOZIRINGWA



Date: 5/24/2016

Environmental Officer:

DAVID KINYUA  
REA, USAID/KEA



Date: 05/27/2016

### *Food for Peace, Washington*

DCHA Bureau Environmental Officer:

Erika J. Clesceri

Date: 6/14/2016

# Environmental Status Report

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## 1. SECTION A: STATUS OF THE INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (IEE)

### 1.1. A1: MODIFIED OR NEW ACTIVITIES

There are no modified or new activities as of the date of submission of this ESR.

### 1.2. A2: RESOLUTION OF DEFERALS

As a result of the insecurity problems detailed in the FY16 PREP narrative, the implementation of the 5 Recommendations has not yet been completed. CRS is working on implementing all of them and expects to complete them by the end of Q2 in FY16.

### 1.3. A3: UPDATES TO THE INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

The Commodities Fumigation PERSUAP was submitted to FFP Washington for approval on 15 March 2016.

Based on the above, is an amended IEE needed?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes attach here.	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If the previous documentation was Categorical Exclusion Submission, is an amended Categorical Exclusion needed to deal with new Categorical Exclusions for new activities?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes attach here.	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 2. SECTION B: STATUS OF FULFILLING CONDITIONS IN THE IEE

### 2.1. B1: MITIGATION MEASURES

#### a) Output 1.3.4: CoProNut have extended nutrition messages and services at nutrition fairs

- Participating families receive a small reusable container for oil and an additional larger container for CSB+.
- Appropriate disposal of USAID ration bags, tins, and packaging.
- CRS working with local fair committees to address waste generation, storage, and final disposal in planning for Nutrition Fairs.
- Promotion in food preparation demonstrations of energy saving techniques
- Local vendors of fuel-efficient stoves will be invited to nutrition fairs to promote, demonstrate the use, and sell their products.
- The planting of agroforestry species for the production of animal fodder and anti-erosion purposes contribute to the sustainable production of biomass

- b) Output 1.3.6 Fumigate food storage facilities**
  - Fumigation PERSUAP submitted to FFP Washington on March 15, 2016. Is Fumigation taking place before the PERSUAP is approved?
- c) Output 2.1.3 Farming HHs have increased access to inputs for crops, especially for women**
  - System which accounts for the disposal of plastic bags produced in seedling activities.
  - Follow the GAPs of ISABU when transporting cassava and banana grafts to the project area to prevent possible spread of diseases.
  - Field staff and farmers will receive trainings in soil management and conservation techniques.
  - Training on Integrated Pest Management (IMP) will be incorporated into the agriculture training plan to safely address insect problems and cut down on the need for chemical pesticides.
  - Submit PERSUAP for USAID approval.
  - Farm groups and agriculture input suppliers will receive trainings in the responsible use of chemical and organic fertilizers.
  - Input suppliers, especially, will receive training focused on making correct, small farmer focused recommendations on the use of chemical fertilizers.
  - FFW planting of agroforestry species and grass strips in riparian zones and water recharge zones to mitigate run off and protect water sources.
- d) Output 2.1.4 Farming HH and communities have adopted improved approaches for gender responsive and climate-resilient land and water management systems**
  - Put in place a bag collection process to deal with the waste generated by nursery and tree planting activities.
  - Use agroforestry species for FFW activities naturalized and commonly found in the project area and acquired through CRS' partnership with ISABU (government entity responsible for approval of agricultural species).
  - Follow a phytosanitary checklist of GAPs laid out by ISABU before introducing the species.
- e) Output 2.1.5 Farming HH and communities have adopted technologies and practices to reduce pre and post-harvest losses**
  - Farmer groups will receive trainings on the responsible use and disposal of post-harvest chemicals.
  - Hangar renovation committees sensitized on how to cut down run off from around the hangars, and link waste into existing disposal networks.
  - Raise awareness around aflatoxins and teach farmers prevention techniques.
- f) Output 2.2.1 Farming HHs have increased animal ownership**
  - Communal and private reforestation activities.
  - Require certification of health from suppliers of Imported Boer bucks from Uganda.
  - Quarantine goats at the Burundian border.
  - Ensure washing and combing of coats and hooves to prevent the introduction of nonnative plant species.
  - Training on the utilization of manure as organic fertilizer and composting material.



- Dig small trenches/retention areas around enclosures to reduce seepage and runoff and decrease the risk of the spread of infectious diseases.
- g) Output 2.2.2 Farming HH have access to gender-responsive veterinary services**
  - Facilitate an agreement between the provincial offices of the ministries of health and agriculture to ensure the safe disposal of veterinary pharmaceutical waste and sharps.
  - Training on safe practices when handling/using vector control insecticides.
- h) Output 2.2.3 Farming HH have adopted sustainable forage and feeding practices for livestock**
  - Planting and cultivation of fodder species and live barriers on private plots for the production of animal fodder and for use as green manure.
  - Goats housed in pens, consuming feed produced by the farmer, and not freely browsing.

## **2.2. B2: STATUS OF MITIGATION AND MONITORING**

### **2.2.1. MITIGATION**

- a) Output 1.3.4: CoProNut have extended nutrition messages and services at nutrition fairs**
  - Nutrition Fairs have just started, so invitations to local vendors is still pending, but this will be included in Nutrition Fairs during the FY.
- b) Output 1.3.6 Fumigate food storage facilities**  
Fumigation PERSUAP submitted to FFP Washington on March 15, 2016.
- c) Output 2.1.3 Farming HHs have increased access to inputs for crops, especially for women**
  - An initial round of FFW planting of agroforestry species and grass strips in riparian zones and water recharge zones has been done.
  - Some initial training has been provided to Lead Farmers with respect to soil management and conservation techniques.
  - All other activities are pending the submission of the PERSUAP to FFP for approval.
- d) Output 2.1.4 Farming HH and communities have adopted improved approaches for gender responsive and climate-resilient land and water management systems**
  - No new species have been introduced as yet, and will not be until the PERSUAP is submitted and approved by USAID/FFP.
- e) Output 2.1.5 Farming HH and communities have adopted technologies and practices to reduce pre and post-harvest losses**
  - This intervention is still pending and will not be implemented until the PERSUAP is submitted to USAID/FFP and approval received.
- f) Output 2.2.1 Farming HHs have increased animal ownership**
  - This intervention is still pending and will not be implemented until the PERSUAP is submitted to USAID/FFP and approval received.

- g) Output 2.2.2 Farming HH have access to gender-responsive veterinary services**
  - This intervention is still pending and will not be implemented until the PERSUAP is submitted to USAID/FFP and approval received.
- h) Output 2.2.3 Farming HH have adopted sustainable forage and feeding practices for livestock**
  - This intervention is still pending and will not be implemented until the PERSUAP is submitted to USAID/FFP and approval received.

#### **2.2.2. MONITORING**

The full M&E Plan has not yet been submitted to USAID/FFP for approval, so there is no functional monitoring system in place as yet. However, most of the in the IEE that require monitoring on hold until the PERSUAP is submitted and approved by USAID/FFP. The few activities that have started, only began in October 2015, and the monitoring data has been collected on paper; e.g. FFW trees planted, tree-monitoring committees formed, etc. This data is being used by Purpose 2 staff for monitoring purposes, and will be entered in the full M&E system once it is approved and becomes operational.

### **3. SECTION C: AWARDEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BEYOND COMPLIANCE AND INSTITUTIONALISATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PRACTICES**

Given that implementation has just started a few months ago, and all components of the program are not as yet up and running, there is nothing to report in this section at this time. A thorough analysis of the situation will be made at the end of FY16, and any recommendations that come from that process will be noted in the next ESR.